

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A leg protection device comprising:
an airbag arranged inside a member disposed in front of a seat;
a gas generator for inflating the airbag; and
a cover covering the airbag and configured to open when the airbag is inflated,
wherein the cover is configured to break along tear lines when the airbag is inflated to form a plurality of laterally arranged flaps when the airbag is inflated.
2. The device of Claim 1, wherein the tear lines are positioned so that at least four laterally arranged flaps are formed.
3. The device of Claim 1, wherein the tear lines are positioned so that at least one flap opens upward and at least one flap opens downward.
4. A breakable cover for an airbag configured to deploy into a position for protecting the legs of an occupant of a vehicle seat, wherein the cover comprises a tear line positioned so that when the cover breaks as a result of the inflation of the airbag a first portion of the cover rotates upward and a second portion of the cover rotates downward.
5. The cover of claim 4, wherein the first portion of the cover includes a plurality of flaps.
6. The cover of claim 4, wherein the second portion of the cover includes a plurality of flaps.
7. The cover of claim 4, wherein the tear line is positioned so that when the cover breaks a third portion of the cover rotates laterally.
8. The cover of claim 7, wherein the third portion of the cover includes a plurality of flaps.
9. The cover of claim 4, wherein the tear line includes a plurality of vertical sections.

10. An airbag module for protecting the legs of vehicle occupant comprising an airbag and a frangible cover overlying the airbag, wherein the cover includes a tear line and a hinge portion positioned so that cover breaks a first portion of the cover rotates upward and a second portion of the cover rotates downward.
11. The module of claim 10, wherein the first portion of the cover includes a plurality of flaps.
12. The module of claim 11, wherein the cover includes additional tear lines positioned in the first portion of the cover to form the plurality of flaps.
13. The module of claim 12, wherein the additional tear lines are parallel.
14. The module of claim 10, wherein the cover is configured to break into the first portion, the second portion and a third portion, wherein the third portion is configured to rotate laterally in a direction generally orthogonal to the vertical direction.